

Appl. No. 09/645,645
Amdt. dated July 6, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 5, 2004

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically processing electronic mail, comprising:
 - loading an electronic mail message;
 - removing non-textual information from the electronic mail message;
 - locating a first portion of a first size from the electronic mail message;
 - generating a first code smaller than the first size portion and indicative of the first portion;
 - locating a second portion of a second size from the electronic mail message,
 - wherein content of the electronic mail message influences the locating steps, whereby locations for the first and second portions varies from message to message;
 - generating a second code smaller than the second size portion and indicative of the second portion; and
 - storing the first code and the second code.
2. (Original) The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim 1, wherein the storing the first code and the second code comprises storing the first code and second code to semiconductor memory.
3. (Original) The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim 1, wherein the locating the first portion uses a different algorithm than the locating a second portion.

Appl. No. 09/645,645
Amdt. dated July 6, 2004
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PATENT

4. (Original) The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim 1, further comprising:

locating a second through nth portions; and

interrupting the locating the second through nth portions when a total number of portions reaches a predetermined count.

5. (Original) The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim 1, wherein the non-textual information includes at least one of header information, a subject line, an internet protocol (IP) address, routing information, hypertext markup language information, and an embedded applet.

6. (Original) The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim 1, further comprising removing everything from the electronic mail message except a message body.

7. (Original) The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim 1, further comprising arranging the first code and the second code according to numerical value.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically processing electronic mail, comprising:

loading an electronic mail message;

selecting a first number of portions from the electronic mail message;

generating a second number of codes from the first number of portions, wherein the first number and the second number are equal;

determining if the first number exceeds a predetermined value;

selecting a third number of portions from the electronic mail message, based, at least in part, on the determining step;

generating a fourth number of codes from the third number of portions, wherein the third number and the fourth number are equal; and

Appl. No. 09/645,645
Amdt. dated July 6, 2004
Reply to Office Action of April 5, 2004

PATENT

storing the fourth number of codes.

9. (Original) The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim 8, further comprising removing non-textual information from the electronic mail message.

10. (Original) The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim 9, wherein the non-textual information includes at least one of header information, a subject line, an internet protocol (IP) address, routing information, hypertext markup language information, and an embedded applet.

11. (Original) The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim 8, further comprising interrupting the selecting the third number of portions from the electronic mail message if the third number reaches a predetermined count.

12. (Original) The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim 8, further comprising arranging the fourth number of codes according to numerical value.

13. (Original) The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim 8, wherein each code is smaller than its respective portion.

14. (Original) The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim 8, wherein the generating the second number of codes includes processing the first number of portions with an algorithm selected from the group consisting of a checksum, a cyclic redundancy check, and a hash.

15. (Original) A method for automatically processing electronic mail, comprising:

loading an electronic mail message;

selecting a plurality of portions from the electronic mail message;

interrupting the selecting the plurality of portions when the plurality of portions reaches a predetermined count;

Appl. No. 09/645,645
Amdt. dated July 6, 2004
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PATENT

generating a plurality of codes from the plurality of portions, wherein the number of codes and the number of portions are equal to each other; and

storing the plurality of codes.

16. (Original) The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim 15, further comprising removing non-textual information from the electronic mail message.

17. (Original) The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim 16, wherein the non-textual information includes at least one of header information, a subject line, an internet protocol (IP) address, routing information, hypertext markup language information, and an embedded applet.

18. (Original) The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim 15, further comprising:

determining if a count of the plurality of portions reaches a predetermined threshold; and

selecting a second plurality of portions from the electronic mail message based upon the determining if the count of the plurality of portions reaches the predetermined threshold.

19. (Original) The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim 15, further comprising arranging the plurality of codes according to numerical value.

20. (Original) The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim 15, wherein each portion consumes more bits than its respective code.

21. (Original) The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim 15, wherein the generating the plurality of codes includes processing the plurality of portions with an algorithm selected from the group consisting of a checksum, a cyclic redundancy check, and a hash.

Appl. No. 09/645,645

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PATENT

22. (Cancel) Please cancel claim 22 without disclaimer of or prejudice to the subject matter contained therein.

23. (Previously Presented) The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim 1, wherein the non-textual information includes hypertext markup language code.

24. (New) The method for automatically processing electronic mail of claim 8, wherein the generating steps calculate codes in a different manner.